

‘Sampark- In the hour of Need’ scheme

Odisha has been hit by a Super Cyclone ‘Fani’ on 3rd May, 2019. 5 districts of the state namely Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Kendrapade and Jagatsinghpur were most affected. The Govt. of India has sent a central team to Odisha and state Govt. has estimated damages over Rs. 7,000 Crore. The State Govt. has initiated infrastructure restoration on a massive scale. The Govt. of India is responding in equal measure.

To assess the impact of the Cyclone on Persons with Disabilities, the JS&CEO, National Trust visited the state on 6th and 7th June, 2019 and held meeting with the State Government officials and NGOs and made field visit. Immediately thereafter, a team of officials of the National Trust led by Dr. Ashish Kumar, Board Member visited the affected areas on 12th and 13th June, 2019.

The team met the Chief Secretary Odisha, State Govt. officials, SNAC/ ROs and other NGOs and discussed the various rehabilitation measures for Divyangjan. During the visit of affected areas and meeting with Divyangjan and their parents it was felt that there is a great need of time bound intervention and counselling to Divyangjan and their families affected by the Cyclone.

The Severity of the situation can be judged by the fact that even after one month, there is no power and water supply in many of affected areas. The parents of Divyangjan, mostly of whom are from rural areas and very poor are finding difficulty in maintaining themselves on their day to day needs, leave their Divyangjan children. The State Govt. and other agencies are working for restoration of essential services round the clock, but that is not adequate, because their focus is general and our target group are High Support Need.

Keeping in view of the very grave situation in the affected areas, the National Trust has planned to introduce a rehabilitation scheme named ‘Sampark- In the hour of need’ for providing necessary support to Divyangjan in case of a natural calamity like- Cyclone, Earthquake, flood etc. for a period of 100 days, to commence from the first day of each programme.

The National Trust will implement this scheme through the following 12 steps-

1. More and more NGOs of the affected areas to be registered with National Trust on priority basis.
2. Special Drive to identify Divyangjan living in their own family and those without family and living in cyclone affected areas.
3. Special drive for issuance of Disability Certificate to these beneficiaries will be organized by the National Trust in collaboration with the State Government.
4. All indentified beneficiaries of the National Trust to be enrolled under Niramaya- Health Insurance scheme.

5. RO's may be sanctioned Awareness program from Badhte Kadam (Awareness, Community Interaction and Innovative Project) in affected areas. During Awareness programme necessary psychological and trauma counselling will be given to Divyangjan. Provision of Travel Allowance for beneficiaries on actual basis. RO's to certify this and include in the Awareness Programme proposal.
6. Disha / Vikaas / Samarth / Gharaunda scheme may be sanctioned in the affected areas. Under Gharaunda scheme, there is a provision of crisis fund of Rs. 10 Lakh. The same will be utilized for repair and restoration of infrastructure to make the centre functional. In addition, it is proposed to extend the provision of crisis fund under Samarth scheme amounting to Rs. 10 Lakh and Disha/Vikaas scheme upto Rs. 5 Lakh as a special measure since all these centres have been severely affected and damaged during the cyclone.
7. On the direction of Chairperson for financial assistance, all the schemes will be restored with the initial funding pattern and scheme guidelines as a special measure to tide over the crisis, for 100 days. This will be effective in the 5 most affected districts of Odisha.
8. State Government will be requested to identify the beneficiaries and provide necessary support.
9. Those who are not included in any scheme should be identified and covered with the Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme, Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase / fitting of Aids and Appliance (ADIP) etc.
10. In addition to the above, the JS&CEO, National Trust may be authorized to take any other action in the interest of the welfare of Divyangjan affected by the Cyclone.
11. For SNAC and RO's, Public Transport shall be availed as much as possible. Private Transport shall only be availed where Public Transport is not convenient. Bhubaneswar will be the base station for transport and other activities.
12. SNAC to monitor this and submit report on monthly basis. Extra fund for travel may be sanctioned to SNAC on case to case basis (on submission of bills on actual reimbursement basis). Short videos of the major activities for making a 9 minutes film on the initiative will be made.

All the activities will be well documented which will be a guide for future programmes.

The National Trust team will visit the affected areas to monitor the progress of the programme once a month over the next 100 days.

Funds to ROs to be released along with the release of funds under Badhte Kadam Awareness program on submission of complete documents and reports.